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Man that is born of woman finds a charm in that which he has seen. She is a woman who has a heart with a touch of a kiss to good or ill, to weath' or to harm. But when he has attained her soft round arm and drawn it through his own and made her his, he has found a treasure which he will never lose.

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REUNITED.

The blue waters of the Shropshire rippled and dashed in the August sunshine as it swept on, winding in and out among the shattered islands till it reached the broader expanse beyond. On one of these islands, and hardly more than a stone's throw from the river, stood an old square house.

On this sunny August afternoon as the day wore on the sky darkened, distant thunder rumbled warningly now and then, till with the twilight breeze grown to a sudden gale, dashed the large rain drops against the windows of the old house which Mrs. Marlow was hurrying about to close.

"Well, I declare, father," she said, coming down stairs out into the hall, "how it does rain! Who'd thought it when 'twas so pleasant this afternoon?"

Capt. Marlow rubbed the bald spot on his head reflectively as he returned, "Doesn't pour, that's a fact."

A little later a blinding flash, accompanied by a crash of thunder heavier than any preceding, caused Mrs. Marlow to start up from her chair.

"Mercy!" she exclaimed, "it pits any poor creature that has to be out in this storm! The storm continued with little abatement. Just as one pool of thunder died away an indistinct sound reached the ears of the two people in the long kitchen. They regarded each other questioning for a moment, then there was a rattle of the door latch, some one outside was groping for it in the darkness.

The man started up, and going to the door there it wide open to the storm, but he stepped back as he did so, for there on the door stood a figure strange to him. The next moment his hospitality overcame every other feeling, and reaching out he said, "Whoever you are, come in."

Mrs. Marlow was by his side and gazing in amazement at the slight, white-robed figure. It was a young girl, her face had never been before. There was a frightened, appealing look in the brown eyes. The wind and rain had beaten upon her head till the dark, clinging raindrops dripped and clung about her neck. Mr. Marlow's motherly arms stretched out instinctively. "Poor child!" she said, drawing her into the room. "Why, father, she's wet through and through."

It was quite true. The water dripped from the dainty white dress and made little pools upon the floor. She wore no wrap of any kind. As yet she had not spoken, but stood looking wonderingly about the room.

"Where did you come from? Are you alone?" Mrs. Marlow asked, and the girl answered with a shudder, "Yes, I'm alone."

"Dear, dear, poor child! Let me get you something to wear. You must be cold."

Capt. Marlow set about making a fire in the cook stove, while his wife took the stranger into the little bedroom. "You're all beat out," the good woman said pityingly. "You'd better go right to bed."

The girl made no reply, but submitted quite passively to whatever was proposed. She took the warm dress Mrs. Marlow brought her, and when the woman went back to the kitchen she said: "I declare, father, the poor thing is completely beat out. She must be cold."

Anxious days followed, while the stranger tossed in the delirium of fever, and Mrs. Marlow cared for her as tenderly as if she had been her own. "Poor child," she said, tears coming into her eyes as she spoke, "it makes my heart ache to think she is away from all her loves."

There was no clew to the girl's former life, no one in the land knew anything about her, and no inquiries, other than brought to no knowledge. Mrs. Marlow searched the girl's clothing, but only one word was found, and one day she slipped a ring off from the wasted hand and looked for some inscription. There was only the word she had found before, the name Kathleen.

The sufferer spoke often, but though Mrs. Marlow strove to catch any words that might lead to the discovery of who she was there was but little that was intelligible.

Sometimes she seemed to be wandering through some wood, and said that the pine needles made a soft carpet, at others she fancied herself on the water, and said she was tired rowing against the stream. Once or twice she spoke the name of Everett, but that was all.

"Poor child!" sighed the good woman. "When she gets well she will tell us, and we will take her home."

But there were days when it seemed that there was little reason to expect her recovery, yet the crisis passed and she still lived. Very white and weak she was, her brown eyes looking unnaturally large, then a faint color came into the face that grew to a healthy glow. Mrs. Marlow forbore asking any questions as yet, though she wondered a little that Kathleen asked her name, but she was growing stronger, she would speak by and by.

Yes, she was growing stronger. Still the doctor looked grave and continued his visits after she was able to walk about.

But as time went on there was no change. She answered to the name of Kathleen, and Mrs. Marlow and her mother-in-law called each other. She seemed quite happy roaming about the island, only when any mention was made of going on the water a troubled look came into her face. "No," she always said, "I need rather not," but she did not urge her. She was hardly 20, Mrs. Marlow thought, of a slight, little figure and as capriciously graceful as a child. Her complexion was of a creamy, almost transparent whiteness, the crimson showing only in her cheeks and lips.

The fall, winter and early spring passed uneventfully away; then there came a time when the old house was in an unusual state of commotion and expectation. Capt. Marlow's son Robert was coming home. He would be here soon now, and he had been in South America, and it was more than a year ago that he had gone away. Mrs. Marlow speculated as to how his coming would affect Kathleen, who seemed as joyfully eager to prepare for him as she did herself. But when he came the broad shouldered captain of the Highflyer was far more affected than was Kathleen.

It was Robert who first induced her to step into a boat. She seemed almost to fear him, but her face was very pale as they took the first sail down the river together. As the time went on she grew accustomed to the water and came to enjoy it. Many were the sails she took during the long summer afternoons. On one of these, as they rowed slowly along toward a cove bordering the farther shore of the island, Robert said, looking off to the wooded islands beyond, with their green branches reflected in the heaped clear waters, "How still it is, as if fancy outwitted the only people anywhere about."

He let his oars rest and the boat drifted slowly. Kathleen returned, "I was foolish, not to like the water."

"You like it now?"

"When I am with you." The words came so quickly and she did not look up, but sat looking down with one hand over the boat's side, just touching the water.

The young man leaned suddenly toward her. "Kathleen," he said, "stay with me always. Come with me over the water where I am going. I want you—need you—can't you love me enough?"

The girl looked up at him with the wondering look of a child. "Love you," she said, "of course; are you not my brother?"

No, I don't want a sister's love. I want a wife's.

The bright color that had been in the girl's face until now died suddenly out, a startled, troubled look came into the brown eyes looking up at him. "Oh, Robert, I can't, I can't."

He started now at her voice, then her words, and asked quickly, "Why can't you?"

For a moment she seemed struggling with herself, then with a despairing face, she cried, "I don't know, I can't remember."

A few weeks later they were making a call on some friends of Robert's on a neighboring island, an open path stood out, and Kathleen was seated, and as they were to go, she went to it and struck a few notes. The others turned in surprise; they did not know she played; but without seeming to she seated herself, and after a few uncertain touches her fingers flew lightly over the keys, bringing out such melody as its owner had never known how to awaken. Robert and his friends stood amazed, as one after another the selections followed each other in rapid succession. Suddenly the girl paused, and her head on her hands and sobbed aloud.

Something like a week after this a stranger came across the big rock and made his way to the side of the old Marlow house with a clear, bright face, and features and an unmistakable well bred air. There was an eager look in the steel blue eyes and a suppressed excitement in his manner when he asked the gray haired woman at the door if she was Mrs. Marlow. She introduced him to her son, and he turned from her work, which was indeed a remarkable attention for her to bestow on any one, looked at the teacher from head to foot, and said:

"Mr. Scroggins, I see that all the fools ain't dead yet."

"My dear madam!"

"Don't dear madam me. I see how it is. You air all jealous of Zany. Oh, you nether lawd, you great big lubberly good-for-nothing thing. This very minute you ought to be out in the wide saltin' trails, 'stead of makin' your livin' by settin' round a house. You'll never be a statesman, Mr. Scroggins, never will be a statesman. About this good-for-nothing body of yours. Gittin' a change can't you, upon me?"

When the boy came home she took him into an inner chamber, a dark room whither she always went to pour out her grief, and wept over him.

About the time Zany arrived at the age of 18 years a change came upon him. Despite his infirmities, he had never made a cheerful face, but he suddenly became gloomy. When some one spoke to his mother with regard to it, she replied:

"It's the poor man's nether lawd, you can't expect a boy that's goin' to be a statesman to allus have the simple grins. 'Jes let him alone, an' he'll come out all right."

"Yes," rejoined the neighbor, "but this mornin' I seed him settin' on the bank of the branch creek 'fit he kill hisse'f."

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